CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A lubrication system for a tool of the type having an impact assembly using a hammer, the lubrication system comprising:

at least one passage in the hammer, the passage extending from an outboard portion of the hammer to an inboard portion of the hammer for directing lubricant from the outboard portion to the inboard portion.

2. The lubrication system as in claim 1, the lubrication system further comprising lubricant contained in the housing for lubricating at least the impact assembly.

3. The lubrication system as in claim 1, the tool having a frame in which the hammer is operatively retained, the lubrication system further comprising a leading edge positioned on the frame formed for accumulating lubricant, the hammer being operable for positioning the passage in proximity for collecting the lubricant from the leading edge of the frame for directing the lubricant into the passage.

4. The lubrication system as in claim 3, further comprising the leading edge being shaped for promoting the accumulation of lubricant from a generally outboardly disposed internal portion of the tool and driving the lubricant into the passage.

5. The lubrication system as in claim 3, the tool having an anvil generally centrally disposed in an operating bore defined in the hammer, the lubrication system further comprising operation of the anvil in the operating bore creating a negative pressure drawing lubricant toward the anvil from an outboard position.

6. A tool comprising:

a housing;

an impact assembly operatively retained in the housing, the impact assembly having drive assembly, a frame coupled to the drive assembly, at least one hammer operable in the frame and an anvil operatively associated with the hammer; and

a lubrication system including at least one passage in the hammer, the passage extending from an outboard portion of the hammer to an inboard portion of the hammer for directing lubricant from the outboard portion to the inboard portion.

7. The tool as in claim 6, further comprising lubricant contained in the housing for lubricating at least the impact assembly.

8. The tool as in claim 6, the drive assembly further comprising a pneumatic drive device.

9. The tool as in claim 6, further comprising the frame having a leading edge positioned and formed for accumulating lubricant, the hammer being operable for positioning the passage in proximity for collecting the lubricant from the leading edge of the frame for directing the lubricant into the passage.

10. The tool as in claim 6, further comprising the housing having an internal wall defining a bore therein, the impact assembly and lubrication system being retained in the bore;

the frame being positioned in the bore proximate the wall for accumulating lubricant which is displace generally radially outwardly toward the wall from a central area of the bore; and

the outboard portion of the hammer being operatively positioned relative to the frame for positioning the passage in proximity to an accumulation of lubricant to drive the lubricant into the passage.

11. The tool as in claim 10, the frame further comprising a leading edge shaped for promoting the accumulation of lubricant from the wall of the housing and driving the lubricant into the passage.

12. The tool as in claim 6, further comprising the anvil being generally centrally disposed in an operating bore defined in the hammer, operation of the anvil in the operating bore creating a negative pressure drawing lubricant toward the anvil from an outboard position.

13. A method for lubricating a tool;

providing a tool housing;

providing an impact assembly operatively retained in the housing;

providing at least one hammer in the impact assembly;

providing at least one passage in the hammer extending from an outboard portion of the hammer to an inboard portion of the hammer;

operating the impact assembly for operating the hammer; and

directing lubrication inwardly through the passage by operation of the hammer in the impact assembly.

14. The method of lubricating a tool as in claim 13, further comprising the steps of:

providing a frame in the impact assembly;

providing a leading edge on the frame;

accumulating lubricant along the leading edge; and

positioning the passage in proximity to the leading edge for directing the lubricant into the passage.

15. The method of lubricating a tool as in claim 13, further comprising the steps of:

providing an anvil in the impact assembly;

providing an operating bore in the hammer;

operatively positioning the anvil in the operating bore;

operating the anvil in the operating bore;

creating a negative pressure by operation of the anvil in the operating bore; and

drawing lubricant inwardly toward the anvil through the passage by application of the negative pressure.

16. In an impact tool of the type having a housing with an impact assembly operatively retained in the housing, the impact assembly having drive assembly, a frame coupled to the drive assembly, at least one hammer operable in the frame and an anvil operatively associated with the hammer; a lubrication system comprising:

at least one passage in the hammer;

the passage extending from an outboard portion of the hammer to an inboard portion of the hammer for directing lubricant from the outboard portion to the inboard portion.

17. In an impact tool as in claim 16, further comprising lubricant contained in the housing for lubricating at least the impact assembly.

18. In an impact tool as in claim 16, the drive assembly further comprising a pneumatic drive device.

19. In an impact tool as in claim 16, the lubrication system further comprising the frame having a leading edge positioned and formed for accumulating lubricant, the hammer being operable for positioning the passage in proximity for collecting the lubricant from the leading edge of the frame for directing the lubricant into the passage.

20. In an impact tool as in claim 16, further comprising the housing having an internal wall defining a bore therein, the impact assembly and lubrication system being retained in the bore;

the frame being positioned in the bore proximate the wall for accumulating lubricant which is displace generally radially outwardly toward the wall from a central area of the bore; and

the outboard portion of the hammer being operatively positioned relative to the frame for positioning the passage in proximity to an accumulation of lubricant to drive the lubricant into the passage.

21. In an impact tool as in claim 20, the lubrication system further comprising the frame having a leading edge shaped for promoting the accumulation of lubricant from the wall of the housing and driving the lubricant into the passage.

22. In an impact tool as in claim 16, the lubrication system further comprising the anvil being generally centrally disposed in an operating bore defined in the hammer, operation of the anvil in the operating bore creating a negative pressure drawing lubricant toward the anvil from an outboard position.

23. A tool comprising:

a housing;

means for providing momentum retained in the housing;

means for providing a hammering force retained in the housing;

means for directing lubricant in the housing from a position generally outboard of the momentum means to a position generally proximate the hammering means.

24. The tool as in claim 23, the momentum means further comprising at least a drive assembly.

25. The tool as in claim 23, the hammering means further comprising at least an impact assembly.

26. The tool as in claim 25, the lubricant directing means further comprising at least a passage formed in at least a portion of the impact assembly.